

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- 15

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDONA, ARIZONA, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING THE UTILIZATION OF REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS BY SEDONA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

WHEREAS, the City of Sedona has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Sedona has adopted a city-wide goal of achieving Zero Waste by encouraging a shift away from disposable packaging among many efforts, thus becoming a “Zero Waste City”; and,

WHEREAS, the expansive usage of plastic shopping bags and their typical disposal creates soil and groundwater pollution and a long term health hazard involving toxic petro-polymers which photodegrade rather than biodegrade; and,

WHEREAS, less than 1% of bags are recycled and it costs more to recycle a bag than produce a new one; and,

WHEREAS, plastic shopping bags create significant litter problems and visible blight on Sedona’s streets, neighborhoods and the pristine landscape we desire to preserve; and,

WHEREAS, paper bags as an alternative generate 70% more emissions, and 50 times more water pollutants than plastic bags during production; and,

WHEREAS, even paper bags made from 100% recycled fiber use more fossil fuels than plastic bags; and,

WHEREAS, governments in several countries have banned or taken action to discourage the use of plastic bags, including China, Bangladesh, Rwanda and the Republic of Ireland, which has achieved a 90% decrease in disposable bag usage; and,

WHEREAS, an effective means of reducing our over-all environmental (or carbon) footprint, soil and water pollution, unnecessary resource exploitation, detrimental wildlife impacts of ingestion and entanglement, while reducing common litter, is to direct attention, emphasis and support toward Sedona’s Reusable Bag Initiative,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDONA, ARIZONA that the City of Sedona supports and encourages the use of Reusable Shopping Bags by all residents of, and visitors to, Sedona; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Sedona requests that retail establishments that routinely provide plastic or paper bags, to the extent possible, encourage their patrons to bring Reusable Shopping Bags with them.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sedona, Arizona, this 14th day of April, 2009.

Rob Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney